

TRANSCRIPT OF ROADLESS RULE
ANILCA SUBSISTENCE PUBLIC HEARING

GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
12/7/2019

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (Gustavus, Alaska - 12/7/2019)

3 (On record)

4 MS. TROUT: Okay, my name again is Basia Trout
5 and I'm the District Ranger for the Hoonah Ranger
6 District for the Tongass National Forest. Tonight I'm
7 here to serve as the meeting facilitator so my job is
8 to make sure that everyone here who would like to make
9 oral or written comments on the proposed rule is able
10 to do so.

11 The meeting is scheduled to last until 9:00 in
12 order to receive your comments. We will be using
13 digital voice recorders located on the table near the
14 speaker to record your comments. We're asking that
15 once you sit down that you not touch the recorder.
16 Your voice recordings will then be translated by a
17 professional court reporter and included in the project
18 record for the Alaska Roadless Rulemaking Project.

19 During this comment portion of the meeting we
20 will not be answering any questions, allowing us time
21 to listen to and hear your comments.

22 Because of the importance of your comments it
23 is necessary that we follow certain procedures. As you
24 entered you were asked to sign in and we have the sign-
25 in sheets up here in front. If you plan to make oral

1 comments please be sure to indicate it, which you have,
2 on the sign-in sheet. Also if you are attending this
3 meeting or submitting on behalf of a group or
4 organization, please also indicate the name of the
5 group or entity that you represent when you come up
6 front.

7 Because of -- it sounded like about eight,
8 maybe more folks, let's start limiting it to five
9 minutes if we can, and then if we have extra time we
10 can -- you can come back again and keep recording, does
11 that work for everybody.

12 Let's see, when I call your name, please step
13 forward to the microphone, please begin your
14 presentation by stating your full name and please
15 assist us by spelling your name. If you are affiliated
16 with an organization or a group, please say so as well.
17 And so that your comments are accurately captured,
18 please speak clearly and into the microphone. If you
19 are called to speak and choose not to speak or provide
20 short comments, you may not cede your time to another
21 speaker.

22 So the time now is 7:06 and I'd like to open
23 the public hearing section of this meeting.

24 Who is our first speaker.

25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Zach Brown.

1 MS. TROUT: Have a seat. Okay. All right.

2 MR. BROWN: Thank you for hearing me. My name
3 is Zach Brown, that's Z-A-C-H B-R-O-W-N. My address is
4 P.O. Box 225 Gustavus, Alaska 99826, and my phone
5 number is (907) 697-2210.

6 I grew up right here in Gustavus. And as a kid
7 I actually didn't grow up in a family that did a whole
8 lot of subsistence activities. But since returning
9 home about five years ago I've devoted a lot of energy
10 with my new bride, Laura, to learning those skills, and
11 I can't tell you what an amazing influx of meaning and
12 beauty and wild protein that has brought to my life.
13 Primarily using, in the Tongass National Forest, the
14 islands of Icy Strait as well as diverse areas across
15 northern Chichagof Island. And, Laura and I just
16 finished about two weeks of what we're now calling deer
17 camp, based out of the Indian Islands but using various
18 areas for deer hunting. We, and several other friends
19 brought in some 12 deer over that time and we've just
20 finished an exhausting long go of processing. We just
21 brought our last canner load of canned venison, put
22 those on the shelf this morning, actually. And we are
23 exhausted but we're also very fulfilled, we know that
24 we have a lot of meat in the freezer and on our shelves
25 to see us through this year. Laura and I are extremely

1 lucky because we live in a functioning intact ecosystem
2 that can still provide us with wild protein. We never
3 buy meat or fish. Not only is that deeply fulfilling
4 to us but it also is a big deal because we don't have a
5 lot of income. And to be able to provide for ourselves
6 and potentially a growing family over the next years
7 and decades allows us to make ends meet.

8 So I speak out in the strongest support of the
9 no action alternative because I know that the only
10 thing that these forms of action, roadless exemptions
11 can bring is a diminishment of the wild abundance of
12 this region.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. TROUT: Thank you. The next speaker is
15 Melanie Heacox, Melanie Heacox.

16 MS. HEACOX: Yeah, I'll fill that out for you.
17 Yep. I'm Melanie Heacox, you need my address, P.O. Box
18 359, Gustavus, Alaska 99826.

19 MS. TROUT: And spell your name so we have it.

20 MS. HEACOX: Yes, it's Heacox. Melanie first,
21 M-E-L-A-N-I-E and Heacox is H-E-A-C-O-X.

22 I'd like to give you some reasons that I
23 believe that the Roadless Rule should be intact on the
24 Tongass. For the health of the Forest so that it can
25 provide subsistence opportunities for residents. One

1 of the reasons is about climate change. The Tongass
2 temperate rain Forest in Southeast Alaska stores more
3 carbon than any other Forest on the planet. Every
4 climate change mitigation strategy begins with leaving
5 trees in the ground and planting more. Not one
6 suggestion to deal with the catastrophic effects of a
7 warming climate endorses opening Forests to logging.
8 Additionally, old growth trees store more carbon than
9 second growth.

10 Another reason for keeping the Roadless Rule
11 intact is habitat protection. Beyond climate change
12 there are other reasons not to open up 9.2 million
13 acres to logging and road construction as the preferred
14 alternative, No.6, suggests. Fragmentation of habitat
15 is a problem for wildlife on planet Earth and we're in
16 the midst of a worldwide extinction. A healthy planet
17 requires habitat protection to preserve the plants,
18 animals and the pollinating insects that preserve us
19 and our food sources, a lattice work of roads is the
20 very definition of fragmentation. If Alternative 6 is
21 adopted, only 35 percent of key fish producing areas of
22 the Tongass would have protection. First implemented
23 in 2001, the Roadless Rule prohibited the construction
24 or expansion of roads on certain tracts of undeveloped
25 land in National Forests. The rule aims to protect

1 sensitive habitats and wild areas as well as conserve
2 natural resources, an obligation that is part of the
3 U.S. Forest Service's mandate to manage public lands
4 for multiple uses.

5 A third reason for the Roadless Rule to be
6 intact on the Tongass has to do with fiscal realities.
7 The timber industry in Southeast Alaska accounts for
8 not even one percent, less than 400 of Southeast Alaska
9 jobs. More profitable industries, on the other hand,
10 such as tourism and commercial fishing, together
11 generate two billion in revenue annually and employ
12 10,000 people in the region. The timber industry on
13 the Tongass has a long history of Federal government
14 subsidies, often to the tune of more than 20 million
15 per year and these subsidies have become news, yet,
16 again, more recently, when a controversial Southeast
17 Alaska timber sale promoted heavily by the Forest
18 Service received no bids, despite taxpayer investments
19 of 3.1 million in new roads, the Forest Service
20 estimated the sale would generate just 200,000 in
21 revenue. So opening to more timber extraction does not
22 make sense.

23 In conclusion, I support the no action
24 alternative. Keep the Roadless Rule intact on the
25 Tongass National Forest. The Roadless Rule established

1 two decades ago protects important fish and wildlife
2 habitat on Federal lands, it safeguards our drinking
3 water and it provides recreation, business
4 opportunities and subsistence options, all of which are
5 crucial to Alaska's communities and economy. And the
6 standing trees are working on our behalf by
7 sequestering carbon, an important contribution to
8 mankind in the light of our warming climate.

9 Thank you for listening.

10 MS. TROUT: Thank you. Larry Landry.

11 MR. LANDRY: Hello, my name is Larry Landry and
12 my address is Box 151, Gustavus. Is that all the
13 information you wanted.

14 MS. TROUT: If you could spell your name as
15 well.

16 MR. LANDRY: L-A-R-R-Y L-A-N-D-R-Y.

17 MS. TROUT: Thank you.

18 MR. LANDRY: And I didn't bring this for an
19 exhibit but it is since we're here. This is a quart
20 jar of bone broth that I just finished making today and
21 brought to give to my friend, Judy Brakel. Like Zach
22 here, I'm a person of modest income and subsistence is
23 hugely important to -- to our way of life. And we --
24 we don't buy any meat of fish at the store, we get it
25 all off the land. This is from a deer that came from

1 Northern Chichagof where a lot of people in Gustavus
2 hunt.

3 And I guess a couple comments specific to the
4 Roadless exemption. I used to hunt over on Homeshore
5 where there's the road system from previous logging
6 activities over there. And I stopped doing it. In
7 part because so many people come there. The road just
8 brings lots of people and it becomes kind of a zoo and
9 if you're going to try and protect a subsistence
10 priority then you don't want to be bringing in a bunch
11 of urbanites to compete with local rural subsistence
12 users and if you -- looking at the maps of what -- of
13 Roadless Rule areas that would get opened up includes
14 Chicken Creek area and it includes the areas to the
15 south of Mud Bay, and those are both places that I've
16 used and that we use and the last thing we want right
17 there is roads. More roads. A, we know very well has
18 two open have -- too often happen, and I was talking to
19 somebody recently about the examples of Petersburg and
20 Kake, where deer used to be plentiful and logging has
21 just really really devastated those populations and now
22 hunting is very limited. And so roading those areas
23 brings the dual threat of shrinking the deer
24 populations at the same that encourages other people to
25 go there.

1 And another example of that is I talked to the
2 area management biologist with Fish and -- Department
3 of Fish and Game this year about why there's a limit of
4 three for Northern Chichagof and it's six elsewhere,
5 and he said deer populations are thriving, they're
6 doing great but the road system around Hoonah, the deer
7 get hit so heavily that we have to limit harvest to
8 make sure they just don't get wiped out. And, so
9 really, the last thing we want in areas that we use is
10 to get more of that pressure coming on to those places.

11 I think that's it.

12 MS. TROUT: Thank you.

13 MR. LANDRY: Thank you.

14 MS. TROUT: Lewis Sharman.

15 MR. SHARMAN: My name is Lewis Sharman, first
16 name Lewis, L-E-W-I-S, last name S-H-A-R-M-A-N. I'm at
17 Post Office Box 21 in Gustavus. And I'm a retired
18 scientist and essentially all of my career was spent in
19 Southeast Alaska on or adjacent to the Tongass National
20 Forest.

21 I've subsisted on, used, and interacted with
22 the Tongass National Forest for 41 years. In fact, I
23 was a very small cog in a very large machine that
24 created the original Tongass Land Use Management Plan
25 back in the late '70s. So I feel that I understand the

1 Forest pretty well, especially the northern half. In
2 the areas that I particularly use for subsistence are
3 Area 311 North Chichagof, Area 339 the Yakutat
4 Forelands, and Area 342 Neka Mountain. Those areas
5 appear to be protected in their current LUD2 status
6 from Roadless Rule exemptions with the exception of the
7 Chicken Creek area, Area 342, Neka Mountain, and I'm
8 concerned about that area because I use it for
9 subsistence deer hunting, in particular. But otherwise
10 in Northern Southeast I use the Forest for berry
11 resources, salmon, seaweed and halibut, all of which
12 are important subsistence resources.

13 And I'd like to speak a little bit larger, I
14 want to stretch the -- perhaps the legal definition of
15 subsistence in this context to go beyond food
16 resources, in particular. And I note that there is
17 some consideration for protecting one's culture and
18 engaging in one's traditional way of life within that
19 con -- larger context of subsistence. And that's how I
20 feel that -- that my relationship with the Forest has
21 evolved over the years until -- today when I enter the
22 Forest I feel that, to me, it provides essential
23 resources that are -- that are beyond food resources or
24 timber resources or water resources, they -- they're a
25 core part of my life and the reason I live here. And

1 the previous commenter, Larry Landry, said a couple of
2 the other things I wanted to comment on and that is
3 with regard to the specific effect that roading has on
4 the provision of those resources. And, in particular,
5 the extent to which roads draw other people in to use
6 those resources and, thereby, essentially compete with
7 us for them, people from outside the local area who are
8 not, in that regard, subsisters, but come from urban
9 areas outside this region. Those are things that
10 allowing roads in these areas -- those are ways that --
11 those are ways that our access to subsistence resources
12 is going to be diminished.

13 So in general I, you know, I want to go on
14 record as supporting Alternative 1, the no action
15 alternative. And I also want, for the record, to -- to
16 reflect the fact that I think I counted 22 people here
17 in this room currently, and I'd like a show of hands of
18 those 22 people, from a subsistence perspective, how
19 many of you support Alternative 1. Please raise your
20 hand. And I'd like the record to show that every single
21 one of those 22 people raised their hands.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. TROUT: Thank you. Greg Stoveler.

24 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: He left.

25 MS. TROUT: He left. And I apologize if I'm

1 mispronouncing names. Judy Brakel.

2 (Applause)

3 MS. BRAKEL: That must be for the food I
4 brought. Am I in the right place?

5 MS. TROUT: Uh-huh, yep, absolutely.

6 MS. BRAKEL: Okay. My name is Judy Brakel or
7 Judith formally, Brakel, so J-U-D-Y B-R-A-K-E-L, I live
8 at -- well, it's my mailing address, is, Box 94,
9 Gustavus, Alaska 99826. Phone number (907) 697-2287.
10 Is that it -- okay.

11 Yeah, so I've lived in Southeast Alaska
12 basically all my life. A number -- well, four
13 different places in the region. So I really care about
14 stuff that's far away from Gustavus and close to
15 Gustavus. As far as subsistence, my husband and I do a
16 lot to try to keep our purchase of food down, partly
17 for financial reasons and partly for -- because it's
18 not good for the Earth, you know, because they say the
19 average bite of food that an Alaska person -- resident
20 -- or a U.S. resident eats has traveled 1,500 miles and
21 that's before it got to Alaska, so -- so we eat a lot
22 of wild food, fish, deer and sometimes we -- people
23 give us moose and, you know, seafood, other -- you
24 know, shellfish a little bit and berries and wild
25 greens and -- and, yeah. And I really love that too.

1 I think one of the things that I really noticed
2 in here -- well, first I should speak to deer, I'm
3 really glad that people have talked about the
4 importance of the deer resource to -- to people here
5 and I totally agree with them. But I have seen -- I
6 tried pursuing at home on the internet the EIS -- Draft
7 EIS, and for fisheries industry for the full exemption
8 from the Roadless, it says neutral or no effect, and
9 also in the text places there were places where it
10 said, well, the riparian -- salmon, 2-21 salmon
11 harvesting and processing; riparian standards
12 established in the 2016 Forest Plan would remain in
13 place under all alternatives so the implication is it
14 doesn't matter what alternative, it's not going to
15 affect salmon. Well, it will affect salmon if there
16 are more roads and more logging, absolutely. This is a
17 study from -- published in 1995 by the Alaska Region of
18 the Forest Service report to Congress, Anadromous Fish
19 Habitat Assessment. It talked about how inadequate so
20 many of the -- of the -- the standards were to try to
21 -- try to preserve habitat, including things like the
22 1990 Tongass Timber Reform Act standards that had
23 recently come in and were designed in many ways to
24 protect salmon streams. But the study showed that the
25 timber program was seriously deficient in its

1 protection. And similar protections, including those
2 like the Tongass Timber Reform Act ones, had been in --
3 had been -- had proved to be inadequate to protect
4 salmon habitat in the Pacific Northwest. A special
5 concern that was mentioned is if -- if times of stream
6 habitat coincided with the time of poor ocean
7 conditions, the situation of double-jeopardy, the
8 likely -- quote, the likely result would be high long-
9 term risk of extinction. We are now arriving at an
10 area -- at an era of double-jeopardy. In the ocean
11 there is warming, current changes, ocean acidification,
12 which is particularly severe in the Gulf of Alaska
13 waters, relative to the rest of the globe actually, and
14 in the freshwater habitat, the new situation deriving,
15 presumably from climate change, the droughts and
16 predictions that the rain will come less gently and
17 more in occasional torrents. So there's lots of reason
18 to worry about salmon. More roads and logging projects
19 will make the freshwater habitat worse.

20 There's somewhere in Forest Service literature,
21 there's a sentence, I couldn't find it just now, but I
22 believe this is an exact quote: Quote here; the
23 greatest threat to the salmon resource is the roads,
24 unquote. Steve Hemenway just explained to me one more
25 reason why that is, I already knew others because we

1 have a high, high -- we have steep country, high
2 rainfall, a lot of loose soils in many places, things
3 go wrong after the roads have been built, perched
4 culverts, blocked culverts, those are just some of the
5 little bit of things that happen, many other things
6 happen.

7 Anyway, I just want to say that the remaining
8 old growth Forest on the Tongass are a precious asset
9 in this era, both as examples of the value of
10 wilderness and as major carbon sinks, they are
11 significant on a national level, and to us they are
12 significant for the wildlife that they provide, some of
13 which we eat, and for the fish habitat, which, I think
14 is extremely precious.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. TROUT: Thank you.

17 MS. BRAKEL: And -- and I never did get an
18 answer but I think, you know, I'm the one who called --
19 first emailed, then called the Region 10 office and --
20 but this area over here, Chicken Creek, which is one of
21 several areas on Chichagof here which are old growth
22 habitat areas, is there -- I remember that Chicken
23 Creek was really survey taped up for roads and -- and
24 logging at one point and then, instead, it was
25 designated an old growth habitat area but with -- as we

1 can see on the map the roadless -- the Alternative 6
2 would remove -- would turn everything into roaded, or
3 ability to build roads and so do you know what would
4 happen there?

5 MS. TROUT: The Forest Plan.....

6 MS. BRAKEL: Or could happen there.

7 MS. TROUT:the Roadless Rule does not
8 change the Forest Plan. So if it's an old growth
9 reserve at this time it would remain an old growth
10 reserve and the protections provided for those areas
11 remain in place unless and until the Forest Plan is
12 amended or revised.

13 MS. BRAKEL: Okay. Even though it's not a
14 Legislative old growth.....

15 MS. TROUT: Right.

16 MS. BRAKEL:it's Legislative -- yeah.

17 MS. TROUT: Right. Old growth is a land use
18 designation of the Forest Plan.

19 MS. BRAKEL: Okay, thank you. So as long as we
20 can have faith in the 2016 Forest Plan, is that the
21 one?

22 MS. TROUT: Under the 2016 Forest Plan it is
23 designated an old growth reserve.

24 MS. BRAKEL: Okay.

25 MS. TROUT: So unless and until the Forest Plan

1 is amended, or revised, which there's -- this rule does
2 not do that at this time.

3 MS. BRAKEL: Thank you.

4 MS. TROUT: Steve Hemenway.

5 MR. HEMENWAY: My name is Steve Hemenway. I
6 recently moved to Gustavus after 30 years in Elfin
7 Cove. I.....

8 MS. TROUT: Would you mind spelling your name.

9 MR. HEMENWAY: Oh, that's H-E-M-E-N-W-A-Y.

10 MS. TROUT: Thank you.

11 MR. HEMENWAY: And I have a background in
12 biology and I know from my own personal experience and
13 my scientific training how important old growth is to
14 everything we care about out there and I wanted to
15 elaborate a little bit when I saw this environmental
16 analysis review when I see fisheries neutral or no
17 effect. I find that ludicrous. Frankly, it's -- it's
18 just -- it disgusts me that the basic science is
19 ignored.

20 Many years ago I was involved in a project that
21 looked at road building and erosion and sedimentation,
22 any amount of road building causes a lot of erosion and
23 sedimentation. It only takes a couple of millimeters
24 of sediment to destroy millions of salmon eggs when
25 they're in the gravel. That's -- the literature is

1 full of studies that document this. How can this be in
2 here as no effect when that entire science is totally
3 ignored. So how can I trust anything else in here.

4 I mean there are all kinds of studies that
5 document and, you know, that's a particularly insidious
6 thing. Because it kills millions of eggs that nobody
7 ever sees over the winter when those eggs are in the
8 gravel. And, to me, to ignore this is just -- you
9 might as well throw this all in the garbage when --
10 when you haven't even taken the time to look at all
11 kinds of studies that are out there. So it -- that
12 impacts everybody's resources. It impacts the bear.
13 It impacts everything. if we haven't got any salmon and
14 it's -- it's not just logging, it's road building. And
15 the studies are out there and they're totally ignored.
16 So how can we look at any of this.

17 The other thing that I'd like to say is that
18 every issue, or every alternative looks like at some
19 sort of consumptive use. For every person in this room
20 and every person in Southeast Alaska, hopefully,
21 there'll be hundreds more to come, and it seems to me
22 that none of these other issues look at the future of
23 all those people that are going to come after us. And
24 I don't see anything that you talked about that
25 addresses anything about our future population that

1 will depend on this. And, for me, also, it's our
2 future planet. It's becoming more and more and more,
3 where we're becoming more aware that the planet is
4 going to depend on places like the Tongass and there's
5 not hardly any of those left. And for our kids and all
6 these future generations we are going to need a Tongass
7 to have a planet. So -- but I -- I cannot trust
8 anything in here when I see the most basic science
9 absolutely ignored.

10 So, anyway, that's my comment.

11 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you. That was
12 everybody on the list that had indicated a Y anyway,
13 from what I can tell.

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sorry, what'd you say.

15 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Sorry, that was everybody
16 that I could see clearly a Y next to your name as
17 wanting to give testimony so.....

18 MS. TROUT: Is there anyone else who would like
19 to give testimony.

20 MR. CASIPIT: I have written testimony next to
21 my name.

22 MS. TROUT: Yeah, come on up.

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Okay. Oh, sorry, I do see
24 testimony.

25 MR. CASIPIT: I wasn't sure what -- I wasn't

1 sure about that so I'm sorry.

2 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The form was confusing.

3 It's been confusing everywhere we've been, sorry.

4 MR. CASIPIT: Okay. My name is Calvin Casipit.

5 C-A-L-V-I-N, Casipit, C-A-S-I-P-I-T. My personal

6 address, P.O. Box 183, Gustavus 99826.

7 I'm going to -- I'm also -- happen to be the
8 Mayor of this fine city and I just wanted to make sure
9 that the Secretary, if he's listening, is aware of the
10 letters we've already sent and our resolution -- sorry,
11 Resolution C19-31 regarding these -- regarding this
12 Roadless Rule exemption Draft EIS.

13 We -- in our initial scoping comments we oppose
14 -- we opposed the lifting of the Roadless Rule. We
15 supported a no action alternative. We still support a
16 no action alternative for a bunch of different reasons
17 documented in both a letter and the resolution, and I
18 will read the last -- sorry -- the last whereas -- or
19 the be it finally resolved. I'll read the:

20 Be it finally resolved that the city of
21 Gustavus urges the U.S. -- urges the Forest Service to
22 invest in programs and employment opportunities for
23 Southeast residents to restore the health and
24 productivity of Tongass Forest's streams as a means of
25 supporting vital ecosystem services such as carbon

1 sequestration, small sale timber production, fish and
2 wildlife populations, natural vistas, visitor
3 amenities, subsistence, hydrological resources and
4 more.

5 So we stand by those comments and I just hope
6 that the Secretary reads those. We've mailed them
7 already. They've already been sent in.

8 Now as a personal -- now some personal
9 testimony.

10 As folks may know, I worked for the Forest
11 Service for over 35 years here in South -- most of them
12 all -- all except four years here in Southeast Alaska.
13 All the way from Prince of Wales all the way to Juneau.
14 I was involved with the timber program by the Forest
15 Service in the early 1980s and I saw it all happen. In
16 fact, I was one of the primary authors of that book
17 that Ms. Brakel showed you all. That was fish habitat
18 assessment. So I know -- I've been around, I know
19 what's going on. I know exactly what's going on here.

20 So as far as subsistence goes, I know everybody
21 who depends on deer in this community, and that's most
22 of us, we're reliant on that north Chichagof shore,
23 Northern Chichagof shore, all the way from Chicken
24 Creek all the way over -- all the way around over to
25 Idaho Inlet. All that area is in our -- we hunt, I

1 hunt, everybody that I know hunts. And it's important
2 to us. I've probably made probably half a dozen to
3 eight, half a dozen to 10 trips already to that shore
4 with friends and we've harvested many deer, many deer,
5 and they're supporting many people in this -- many
6 families in this community. All that -- you know,
7 according to those maps all that area comes out of
8 protection and like I said that's all important to all
9 of us. Not only just me, but all of us in this
10 community.

11 It's more than just deer, it's berries, it's
12 fish, it's beach asparagus, there's a bunch of stuff
13 that the people around here collect -- use the Forest
14 to collect from. All that is in -- all that is in
15 jeopardy with -- especially like folks said the roads
16 and the sedimentation you can get off the roads and
17 then the use that you get from the roads. You know, I
18 know in the past, you know, the agency thinks roads are
19 a benefit, that they're a good thing for everybody and
20 that needs to be evaluated because I don't think
21 necessarily they are. Especially in places like
22 Kubernin area, where they're remote, there's not even
23 -- there's not even a dock -- dock anymore there where
24 you can tie up to so you can use a road system and no
25 way to get a vehicle over there unless you have a

1 landing craft. So, you know, these -- the remote --
2 just, yeah, the road -- the road shouldn't be counted
3 as a benefit for society, they should be counted as
4 something else.

5 Anyway, that's about all I had to say.

6 Oh, and one more thing I wanted to say,
7 subsistence is more than just food. In fact, I could
8 read it directly out of ANILCA .801 -- the definition
9 of ANILCA in ANILCA, but it's more than just food, it's
10 food, shelter, fuel, clothing, making handicrafts from
11 non-edible byproducts of fish and wildlife, it's more
12 than just that, it's culture, it's how people relate to
13 one another, how we take care of one another. So I
14 just want to make that point and make sure that people
15 realize, make sure that Mr. Perdue realizes that
16 subsistence is more than just food. And I hope he
17 hears us and we'll see if he does.

18 Thanks.

19 MS. TROUT: Thank you. Do we have anyone else
20 that would like to speak tonight.

21 MS. HEMENWAY: I would.

22 MS. TROUT: Come on up.

23 MS. HEMENWAY: My name is Amy Hemenway, it's A-
24 M-Y H-E-M-E-N-W-A-Y. I live here in Gustavus but I
25 recently moved from Petersburg, Alaska. I was in

1 Petersburg for four years. And most of Mitkof Island
2 has been logged, the Forested areas, if you look at
3 percentages, it doesn't look like a lot but a lot of
4 it's muskeg, so most of it has been logged. And the
5 geo-population has really suffered.

6 The hunting season is very limited. It's been
7 two weeks out of the year, one buck per person, which
8 you can't support a family on, you can't feed a family
9 on one deer. And everyone else, if you can't get that
10 one deer in two weeks, now it's five weeks, but still
11 it's not that much time if you're a working person, you
12 can't get a deer in two weeks to feed your family. And
13 people, that are lucky enough to be able to afford a
14 boat and have time to go to another island where there
15 are more deer, they still have to take the time and go
16 over dangerous waters in the fall and the winter to --
17 just to feed their families with deer. And I -- my
18 family we eat just venison and salmon and halibut, we
19 don't buy meat from the store. And you just can't do
20 it without alternative means in Petersburg. That's one
21 of the reasons we moved up here is just to get away
22 from the destruction that was left behind in Central
23 Southeast.

24 And deer is very important for a lot of
25 families, to feed their families, but it's just not

Page 26

1 about the deer. It's about the berries, it's about the
2 -- just the lifestyle. And also heavily about salmon,
3 salmon feeds a lot of families in Alaska. And my
4 husband is a commercial fisherman, he trolls, and he
5 catches salmon for a living. So if all these areas are
6 open up to roads or logging, if deer declines, then we
7 have less food for the freezer. If salmon declines, we
8 have less food and no income so it hits us doubly hard.
9 And I know we're not the only -- only family in
10 Southeast that this would hit this hard.

11 And it's not just about small areas within
12 Southeast, it's the whole thing, because the areas that
13 are left as roadless areas, there's -- everywhere that
14 you don't mention that's not in a roadless area, most
15 of those have already been logged, and there's just not
16 that much old growth left. And the whole idea of
17 opening up these areas to roads and potential logging,
18 we're not going to have anything left. And this is a
19 unique ecosystem in the world -- is one of the last
20 intact Forests, temperate rain Forests left and we're
21 just opening it up to, to what, for some people to make
22 a little bit of money. It doesn't make any sense
23 because we've got climate change to think about and
24 we've got future generations to think about, like Steve
25 said. We're not planning for the future, we're

1 planning for, what benefits a few people now, and
2 opening these areas up to destruction essentially,
3 roads and logging are habitat destruction, we're just
4 -- we're basically saying, our kids, our grandkids, our
5 great-grandkids, they don't matter. And what's the
6 point.

7 So I support no action alternative.

8 MS. TROUT: Okay, thank you. Did I miss
9 anyone. Anyone else.

10 MR. MACKOVJACK: If there's no one else I'll
11 go.

12 MS. TROUT: Okay. So I missed you.

13 MR. MACKOVJACK: I'm sorry. Jim Mackovjack or
14 James, J-A-M-E-S, last name is M-A-C-K-O-V-J-A-C-K.
15 And Box 63, Gustavus (907) 308-4038. I've been in
16 Gustavus for 45 years and I've eaten lots of fish and
17 these fish that we've caught by subsistence, or sport,
18 whatever you want to call it, for us it's subsistence.
19 I don't enjoy killing fish, I enjoy eating them.

20 My kids, when they were growing up, they didn't
21 say, what's for dinner, it was more like what kind of
22 fish are we having for dinner because we just ate it
23 all the time.

24 Regarding the Forest Service's contention that
25 none of the alternatives will have any effect on the

1 salmon resources is totally bogus and I think the
2 agency should be embarrassed that it's putting this
3 forward here.

4 I spent a lot of time on the Hoonah Ranger
5 District, on the road system there, and we talk about
6 streams, and I saw a lot of blown down buffer strips,
7 these are supposed to protect the streams. I saw where
8 logging trucks had drained their oil in the middle of
9 the road, changed their lube oil in the middle of the
10 road. I mentioned it to the chief Rang -- to the
11 District Ranger there, he says, yeah, you just can't
12 control these guys but, yeah, I mean here's a big
13 puddle of oil in the road, fuel filters sitting by
14 there. I mean it's just -- just completely crazy here.

15 Dennis Bschor, the former Regional Forester, I
16 attended a meeting of the Society of American Foresters
17 in Portland one time and in a hallway conversation,
18 Dennis made a very interesting comment, he said that
19 past management practices had created numerous
20 opportunities for restoration projects on the Tongass,
21 a lot of those involved salmon streams, and that's what
22 the focus should be, not building more roads. And the
23 only alternative that really works for salmon is the no
24 action alternative.

25 That's all I have to say.

1 MS. TROUT: Thank you. Anyone else.

2 (No comments)

3 MS. TROUT: Well, it is now 7:47 and I'm
4 closing the hearing.

5 (Off record)

6 (END OF RECORDING)

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